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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on decisions concerning organizational matters

Chair: Mr. Xavier **Lasso Mendoza** (Ecuador)

1. At its 8th meeting, on 27 June 2014, the Special Committee considered pending matters related to its work and took decisions on the agenda items listed below.

Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

2. The General Assembly, by paragraph 6 of its resolution 1654 (XVI), authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. By paragraph 3 (9) (c) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 2621 (XXV), the Assembly directed the Committee to continue to hold meetings away from Headquarters, as appropriate.

3. Accordingly, the Special Committee decided to consider accepting invitations for such meetings as might be received in 2015 and, when the details of those meetings become known, to request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provisions, in accordance with established procedure.

Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

4. The Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. The

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Committee would authorize its Chair to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice and on the basis of the principle of rotation, the Chair would hold consultations with the Bureau members, who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Chair would also hold consultations with a member of the Committee whose regional group is not represented in the Bureau. The Special Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 2015.

Pattern of conferences

5. The Special Committee noted that, during the year, it had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 68/251. By organizing its programme of work effectively and holding extensive consultations, the Committee had been able to keep to a minimum the number of its formal meetings. The Special Committee decided to continue to make optimum and effective use of conference-servicing resources.

6. The Special Committee also decided, taking into account its probable workload for 2015, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) *Plenary*

February	1 meeting
March	1 meeting
June	Up to 8 meetings (5 to 8 meetings a week)

(b) *Bureau*

Up to 10 meetings during the year

7. It should be understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, early in 2015, review its scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Committee would, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, strive to keep its meetings to a minimum, while fulfilling its mandate.

Control and limitation of documentation

8. The Special Committee noted that, during the year, it had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation, in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50, 39/68, 51/211 B, 67/237 and 68/251. The Special Committee, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, decided to continue to streamline its report to the Assembly.

Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

9. The Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its sixty-ninth session.

Regional seminars

10. Subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its sixty-ninth session in this regard, the Special Committee decided to organize in 2015 a seminar in the Caribbean region, to be attended by representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Committee emphasized that the regional seminar should be conducted in such a way as to allow as much time as possible for the hearing of the views of representatives from the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including non-governmental and civil society organizations.

Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

11. The Special Committee decided to recommend that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Committee at Headquarters should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.